

*Program will engage Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in effort to record stories of local combat veterans for the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress*

Sayville, NY— On Monday, U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) announced a new initiative to enlist Long Island Eagle Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in recording Veterans' stories. The program will train the Scouts to conduct interviews with local combat Veterans. The interviews the Scouts conduct will be prepared for inclusion in the Library of Congress as part of the Veterans History Project, so that future generations may hear directly from Veterans and better understand our nation's history.

"The best way to honor our veterans is to remember their sacrifices," Rep. Israel said. "Too many young Americans don't realize how high the price was for their freedom. That's why I've organized this Library of Congress Veterans Oral History program on Long Island, and I'm grateful that our local boy and girl scouts will be participating."

"This program will insure that we don't lose the wisdom and knowledge of history that only our heroic veterans can provide," said Presiding Officer Lindsay. "And perhaps just as important, this will be an invaluable learning experience for the young Scouts who will record these stories. This project will make certain that our history remains a living history available to all our citizens. I have a personal connection to exactly this sort of project. My father-in-law, Major (ret.) Lloyd Kraus, who passed away two years ago, was a World War II hero, a Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient who fought all the way across Europe and was one of the first American soldiers to reach the Russian army. Recognizing that his memories of the war had to be preserved, we made an audiotape in which he described in detail—sometimes heartbreaking detail, sometimes humorous detail—his World War II experiences. Making that tape was a real education for me, and it will be for the Scouts who record the experiences of our American war heroes."

Suffolk Police Veterans Association President Ken Bombace said, "With our military actively fighting our nations enemies on two fronts, it is increasingly important to honor and recognize the service and sacrifices being made by our men and women in uniform. What better way to do that than to permanently record their incredible stories through the Veterans History Project. It is also very appropriate that this important mission has been entrusted to those who best represent the values of our nation, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts of America. We owe a debt of gratitude to Congressman Steve Israel for bringing this incredible project to our community."

Rep. Israel has invited local Boys, Girls and Eagle Scouts to participate in the project by interviewing local War Veterans. Rep. Israel will join the Library of Congress in hosting a training session on August 25th so that these young men and women are prepared to conduct these interviews. Following their training, Scouts will be paired with local Veterans to interview them about their experiences. The Library of Congress will preserve the interviews as part of the Veterans History Project.

The Library of Congress Veterans History Project collects, preserves, and makes accessible to the public the personal accounts of American war Veterans. The project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, the project also invites U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts to share their valuable stories.

Rep. Israel has a long record of advocating on behalf of veterans. His efforts have secured more than \$3.7 million in back payments for Long Island veterans.